

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05090 252140Z

16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 252125Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5641

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 5090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S HEALTH

1. PRESIDENT VELASCO HAS BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HIS APPEARANCE AT JUNE 7 PLEDGE TO FLAG CEREMONIES. HE HAS RECEIVED VARIOUS CITIZEN GROUPS AND WAS INTERVIEWED AT HOME BY PRESS ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY. BY MOST ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THAT OF ONE OF HIS PHYSICIANS, HE IS IN RELATIVELY GOOD HEALTH. DR. ALCANTARA BUTTERFIELD, ONE OF THE TEAM OF CARDIOLOGISTS WHO ATTENDED VELASCO AT THE CENTRAL MILITARY HOSPITAL, TOLD REPORTERS RECENTLY THAT VELASCO IS IN GOOD HEALTH. "I WOULD SAY BETTER THAN BEFORE HE HAD THE ANEURISM." ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ALCANTARA TERMED "EXTRAORDINARY" THE WAY VELASCO HAS RECOVERED SINCE HIS PROBLEM BEGAN IN 1972. DR. ALCANTARA

SAID THAT VELASCO'S BLOOD PRESSURE MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL, BUT "I ASSURE YOU THAT RIGHT NOW HE COULD NOT BE BETTER".

2. EMBASSY NOTES FOR THE RECORD THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR, WHEN QUERIED BY THE PRESS JUNE 23 ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS VELASCO AND PINOCHET, REMARKED THAT "FOR REASONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH THAT (THE MEETING) IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME."

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PAGE 02 LIMA 05090 252140Z

3. COMMENT: DE LA FLOR'S REMARK IS NOTED BECAUSE IT SEEMS MORE CANDID THAN MOST RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES ON PRESIDENT VELASCO'S HEALTH. HOWEVER, DE LA FLOR'S COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH MAY ALSO BE USED AS A PRETEXT TO PUT OFF CONSIDERATION OF A VELASCO/PINOCHET MEETING. THE MORE NORMAL GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED RESPONSE RESEMBLES THAT OF DR. ALCANTARA AND HAS VELASCO IN VERY GOOD HEALTH INDEED.
DEAN

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